

REMARKS

The acceptance of the proposed drawing corrections filed on December 7, 2005 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 2-4 have been cancelled and new claims 5-7 have been added. Claim 1 has been amended in order to clarify the novel aspects of the present invention. Support for these amendments are found throughout the specification, particularly at pages 3-5, and shown in the Figures. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,685,776 to Stambolic. This repeated ground of rejection is traversed in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

It should be noted that claim 1 has been amended so that the buffer member 2 (*i.e.*, the “parts holding member”) is interposed between the switch board 10 and the main board 1 (and is thus respectfully submitted to be well-described as a “buffer” member). The Examiner asserted that elements 30 and 35 in Stambolic render obvious a parts holding member. As clearly shown in Figures 3A and 4B in Stambolic, the battery housing cover 35 and intermediate housing body 30 are parts of the tubular housing enclosure 12 and are not “interposed” between and do not “buffer” anything. Even if, *arguendo*, elements 74 and 74A of Stambolic were considered to be a switch board rather than a switch (as explicitly disclosed at column 6, lines 10-19), it would still fail to teach or suggest the present invention disclosed since there would then be no structure corresponding to the buffer member or a switch board holding member integrally formed therewith. As discussed in previous responses, the underlying purpose of the present invention is to prevent breakage and short-circuiting (see page 5 of the specification). At no point does Stambolic teach or suggest the advantages of constructing a game controller in such a way as to prevent breakage and short-circuiting in the manner recited, in the claims as finally rejected or amended as requested above.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is believed that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is

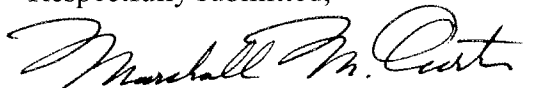
respectively requested. It is further requested that the application be reconsidered, that claim 1, and new dependent claims 5-7, be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

In this regard it is respectfully submitted that entry of the above amendments are well justified. While extensive amendment of claim 1 has been requested to avoid the construction thereof asserted by the Examiner, the combination of elements and their organization as recited in claim 1, amended as requested, and new claims 5-7 are substantially the same as the scope of claims 1-4 as finally rejected (with recitations of battery terminals moved from independent claim 1 to dependent claims 5 and 7). In other words, the requested amendments to claim 1, and new claims 5-7, are essentially directed to clarifications of issues raised by the Examiner in the final rejection for which entry is expressly provided 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Accordingly, entry of the amendments are clearly well justified and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marshall M. Curtis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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